M.469
1822

A B C D E F G H I J K L
M N O P Q R S T U
V W X Y Z.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r
s t u v w x y z.

A B C D E F G H I J K L
M N O P Q R S T U
V W X Y Z.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q
r s t u v w x y z.

fi fl ff ffi ffl—*fi fl ff ffi ffl.*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0.

THE

MEDLEY.

NEW-YORK:

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NO. 261, PEARL-STREET;
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Baltimore.

1822.

THE word Medley, signifies a mixture ; such is our little book : it contains variety. selected with care ; and it is hoped it will please, and at the same time not injure the infant mind.

The Medley.

THE black snake is very smooth and slender: black on the upper parts, and of a pale blue beneath, except the throat, which is white.

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It generally grows to the length of six feet ; and possesses no poisonous qualities. It is remarkably active, and will move very fast. They will sometimes attack a man, and wind round his legs in such a manner as to throw him down, bite him several times, and run off again. It is said to be fond of milk ; that it is difficult to keep it out, when once it is accustomed to get into a cellar where milk is kept, and that it has been seen taking milk out of the same dish with children, without biting them, though they often gave it blows with their spoons upon the head, when it was too greedy, of which the annexed cut is a lively representation.

STORKS are birds of passage, and observe great exactness in the time of their antumnal departure: The White Stork has naked eye balls, and black prime wing feathers; the skin below the feathers, and also the beak, feet, and claws, are of a blood colour. It is such an enemy to serpents, frogs, mice, &c. which it devours, that, it is reckoned almost a crime to

kill a stork. From this favourable treatment, they are seen in Holland, and the Low Countries, walking unconcernedly in the middle of the streets.

The disposition of this bird is mild, neither shy nor savage; it is an animal easily tamed; and may be trained to reside in gardens, which it will clear of insects and reptiles. It has a grave air, and a mournful visage; yet when roused by example, it shows a certain degree of gaiety; for, it joins the frolics of children, hopping and playing with them. "I saw in a garden (says Dr. Hermann) where the children were playing at hide and seek, a tame stork join the party, run in its turn when touched, and dis-

tinguish the child whose turn it was to pursue the rest, so well, as along with the others, to be on its guard." See the annexed engraving.

THE Lapwing is about the size of the common Pigeon, and is covered very thickly with plumes, which are black at the roots, but

of a different colour on the outward part. They are found in most parts of Europe. Their chief food is worms. They make a great noise with their wings in flying, and are called pee-wits, in the north of England, from their particular cry. The female lays two eggs on the dry ground, near some marsh, upon a little bed which she prepares of dry grass. These are olive coloured and spotted with black. She sits about three weeks, and the young are covered with thick down.

Two lapwings were given to a clergyman, who put them into his garden; one soon died, but the other continued to pick up such food as the place afforded, till winter deprived it of its usual

supply. Necessity soon compelled it to draw nearer the house: by which it gradually became familiarized to occasional interruptions from the family. At length one of the servants, when she had occasion to go into the back kitchen with a light, observed that the lapwing always uttered his cry of "pee-wit," to obtain admittance. He soon grew more familiar: as the winter advanced, he approached as far as the kitchen; but with much caution, as that part of the house was generally occupied by a dog and a cat, whose friendship however, the lapwing at length conciliated so entirely, that it was his regular custom to resort to the fireside as soon as it grew dark, and spend the evening and night

with his two associates, sitting close by them, and partaking of the comforts of the warmth. As soon as spring appeared, he discontinued his visits to the house, and betook himself to the garden; but on the approach of winter he had recourse to his old shelter and friends, who received him very cordially. Security was productive of insolence: what was at first obtained with caution, was afterwards taken without reserve: he frequently amused himself with washing in the bowl which was set for the dog to drink out of; and while he was thus employed, he showed marks of the greatest indignation if either of his companions presumed to interrupt him.

THE Swan is a bird of the goose kind. It generally weighs full 20 pounds. Its colour is entirely white. When on its favourite element it smoothly sails along the surface of the water, moving, as it were, merely by the volition of the will, without any apparent effort : perhaps there is not in nature a more elegant and beautiful

figure. This beautiful bird is as delicate in its appetite, as elegant in its form. Its chief food is corn, bread, herbs growing in the water, and roots and seeds, which are found near the margin.

It is a very strong bird, and at times extremely fierce ; it has not unfrequently been known to throw down and trample upon youths of fifteen and sixteen years of age ; and an old swan we are told, is able to break the leg of a man with a single stroke of its wing. A female, while in the act of sitting, observed a fox swimming towards her from the opposite shore; she instantly darted into the water, and having kept him at bay for a considerable time with her wings, she at last

succeeded in drowning him; after which, in the sight of several persons, she returned in triumph. This circumstance took place at Pensy, in Buckinghamshire, and is illustrated by an engraving which accompanies this article.

Swans were formerly held in such great esteem in England, that by an act of Edward the Fourth, none, except the son of a king, was permitted to keep a swan, unless possessed of five marks a year. By a subsequent act, the punishment for taking their eggs was imprisonment for a year and a day, and a fine at the king's will.

To Children.

Children, prize the present minute,
To be innocent and gay;
You'll be happy as the linnet,*
Sweetly singing on the spray.

Children, who are innocent,
Doing what they can to please,
Not on mischief being bent,
Live in cheerfulness and ease.

Virtue is a prize worth gaining,
Endeavour all you can to win it,
Then forever entertaining,
You'll be lov'd as is the linnet.

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* The linnet is a small bird much esteemed for the sweetness of its singing. They are easily taught to whistle, or to imitate other birds. They are particularly fond of Linseed, from which, Bewick says, they derived their name.

THE Sparrow is a small bird, repeatedly spoken of in the Scriptures, as a bird of little value; yet, they are not without their use, for they destroy an abundance of caterpillars. The Sparrow is a familiar bird, but so cunning as not easily to be taken in snares. They build early in the spring; generally forming their

nests under the eaves of houses, and in holes in the walls. They are common in England and the eastern continent. The following anecdote, illustrative of the affection of these birds toward their young, is related by Smellie.

"When I was a boy," says our author, "I carried off a nest of young sparrows about a mile from my place of residence. After the nest was completely removed, and I was marching home in triumph, I perceived with some degree of astonishment, both parents following me at some distance, and observing my motions in perfect silence. A thought then struck me, that they might follow me home, and feed the

young according to their usual manner. When just entering the door I held up the nest, and made the young utter the cry which is expressive of the desire of food. I immediately put the nest and the young in a corner of a wire cage, and placed it on the outside of a window. I chose a situation in the room where I could perceive all that should happen, without being myself seen. The young animals soon cried for food. In a short time both parents, having their bills filled with small caterpillars, came to the cage; and after chatting a little as we would do with a friend through the lattice of a prison, gave a small worm to each. This parental intercourse continued

regularly for some time ; till the young were completely fledged, and had acquired a considerable degree of strength. I then took one of the strongest of them, and placed him on the outside of the cage, in order to observe the conduct of the parents after one of their offspring was emancipated. In a few minutes both parents arrived, loaded, as usual, with food. They no sooner perceived that one of their children had escaped from prison, than they fluttered about and made a thousand noisy demonstrations of joy, both with their wings and their voices. These tumultuous expressions of unexpected happiness, at last gave place to a more calm and soothing conversation.

By their voices and movements, it was evident, that they earnestly entreated him to follow them, and to fly from his present dangerous state. He seemed impatient to obey their mandates: but by his gestures, and the feeble sounds he uttered, he plainly expressed that he was afraid to try an exertion he had never before attempted. They, however, incessantly repeated their solicitations: by flying alternately from the cage to a neighbouring chimney-top, they endeavoured to show him how easily the journey was to be accomplished. He at last committed himself to the air, and alighted in safety. Upon his arrival, another scene of clamorous and active joy was ex-

hibited. Next day I repeated the same experiment, by exposing another of the young on the top of the cage. I observed the same conduct with the remainder of the brood, which consisted of four. I need hardly add, that not one, either of the parents or children, ever afterwards revisited the execrated cage."

How lovely is liberty !
How execrable slavery !

The hospitable Negro Woman.

THE enterprising Traveller, Mungo Park, was employed by the African Association, to explore the interior regions of Africa. In this hazardous undertaking,he encountered many dangers and difficulties. His wants were often supplied, and his distresses alleviated by the kindness and

compassion of the negroes. He gives the following lively and interesting account of the hospitable treatment he received from a poor negro woman.

"I had passed a whole day without victuals in the shade of a tree, and the night threatened to be very uncomfortable; for the wind rose, and there was a great appearance of a heavy rain: the wild beasts too were so numerous in the neighbourhood, that I should have been under the necessity of climbing up the tree, and resting among the branches. About sun set, however, as I was preparing to pass the night in this manner, and had turned my horse loose, that he might graze at liberty, a negro woman, re-

turning from the labours of the field, stopped to observe me: and perceiving that I was weary and dejected, inquired into my situation. I briefly explained it to her: after which, with looks of great compassion, she took up my saddle and bridle, and told me to follow her. Having conducted me into her hut, she lighted a lamp, spread a mat on the floor, and told me that I might remain there for the night. Finding that I was very hungry, she went out to procure me something to eat; and returned in a short time with a very fine fish; which, having caused it to be half broiled upon some embers, she gave me for supper. The rites of hospitality being thus performed to-

wards a stranger in distress, my worthy benefactress (pointing to the mat, and telling me I might sleep there without apprehension) called to the female part of her family, who stood gazing on me all the while in fixed astonishment, to resume their task of spinning cotton: in which they continued to employ themselves great part of the night.

"They lightened their labour by songs, one of which was composed extempore; for I was myself the subject of it. It was sung by one of the young women, the rest joining in a sort of chorus. The air was sweet and plaintive, and the words literally translated, were these: "The winds roared, and the rains fell—The poor white man, faint and weary,

came and sat under our tree.—He has no mother to bring him milk; nor wife to grind him corn. *Chorus.* Let us pity the white man: no mother has he to bring him milk; no wife to grind his corn."* Trifling as these events

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* These simple and pathetic sentiments have been beautifully versified and expanded by the dutchess of Devonshire. The following is a copy of this little interesting piece of poetry.

The loud wind roar'd, the rain fell fast;
The white man yielded to the blast:
He sat him down beneath a tree,
For weary, sad, and faint was he:
And, ah! no wife nor mother's care,
For him the milk or corn prepare.

CHORUS.

The white man shall our pity share:
Alas! no wife nor mother's care,
For him the milk or corn prepare.

may appear to the reader, they were to me affecting in the highest degree. I was oppressed by such unexpected kindness; and sleep fled from my eyes. In the morning I presented to my compassionate landlady two of the four brass buttons which remained on my waistcoat: the only recompense it was in my power to make her."

The storm is o'er, the tempest past,
And mercy's voice has hush'd the blast:
The wind is heard in whispers low:
The white man far away must go;
But ever in his heart will bear
Remembrance of the negro's care.

CHORUS.

Go, white man, go: but with thee bear,
The negro's wish, the negro's prayer,
Remembrance of the negro's care.

LITTLE lads are frequently much delighted in forming and sailing their little boats. Some they rig as ships, some as sloops, some as schooners, &c. and with them they hie away to some place of water, set them afloat, and thus amuse themselves.

The cut in the title page represents a little fellow on one knee, having just launched his sloop, holding on by a string in one hand, lest the wind should waft her quite away: while another lad by his side, stands holding his schooner, ready to commit her to the water. Sometimes,

> They their mimic ships do guide,
> Down the kennel's dirty tide;

or seek some purer stream, pond

of large water, where, for hours, they pleasingly employ themselves in sailing their little vessels, and frequently get wet clothes, if not endanger their lives by falling into the deep water.

FINIS.

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